We claim:

1. A process for trapping particulate matter in a gas stream exiting a combustion equipment, said process comprising:

providing a combustion equipment with one or more exits for exhaust gases, each said one or more exits connected to one or more ducts; and

placing at least one particulate trap in at least one of said one or more ducts;

wherein said at least one particulate trap is removable and/or replaceable while said combustion equipment is online.

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein each said particulate trap is placed in an assembly comprising said particulate trap and a sliding-gate housing and each said assembly is positioned within each said one or more ducts such that opening the sliding-gate housing allows particulate trap removal and/or replacement.

3. A process according to claim 2 wherein said assembly is upstream of an environmental catalyst bed.

4. A process for trapping particulate matter in a gas stream exiting a combustion equipment, said process comprising:

providing a combustion equipment with one or more exits for exhaust gases, each said one or more exits connected to one or more ducts; and

placing at least one particulate trap in at least one of said one or more ducts;

wherein said at least one particulate trap is cleanable while said combustion equipment is online.

5. A process according to claim 4 wherein said particulate trap is upstream of an environmental catalyst bed.

6. A particulate trap for removing particles from a gas stream, said particulate trap comprising:

a plurality of filtering layers, each layer having a mesh size; and

a housing to contain said layers in a predetermined shape.

7. A particulate trap according to claim 6 wherein at least two layers of said plurality of layers have different mesh sizes.

8. A particulate trap according to claim 6 further comprising two filtering layers having a media to catch larger particles and one filtering layer having a media to catch smaller particles sandwiched between said two larger particle media layers.

9. A particulate trap according to claim 8 wherein each said filtering layer is a sintered weave material.

10. A particulate trap according to claim 9 wherein each said filtering layer is a pleated filtering layer.